

Minutes of the THWA Board Meeting of February 2, 2011 at Lisa McLaughlin's house

Present: Gary Fitts, Kim Abbott, Morris Older, Lila Abdul-Rahim, Lisa McLaughlin, Alison Martin, Eric Schroeder, Susan Palo, Becky Mertens, Paige Schorer, Jane Binder.

**1. Treasurer's Report: Kim Abbott** – The total balance both accounts is \$19864.00

The Annual Meeting dinner in January cost \$1155; we received \$490 in ticket sales (maybe a bit more, some not accounted for yet). What to do about people who RSVP'd and did not come? We were charged for their dinners. We are not charging what it costs us.

CHSA: we do not have to be members of CHSA in order to obtain insurance through them. However, there is a price break on the insurance for members.

Motion passed unanimously: will make this an agenda item for next meeting. Kim will send email with the relevant numbers prior to next meeting.

**2. Membership Report: Paige Schorer** – we have 57 members.

Discussion: There are 4 stores involved in the TWHA 10% membership discount, Orinda Tack, Vista Madera Tack, Western Saddlery, Concord Feed. Question raised whether someone wants to chair a committee to locate other stores. It was decided to wait till we get the 3 results of survey from members to see what stores they would like.

**3. Newsletter Report: Morris Older** – has an article on Cavalia; article reviewing the talk given by Kim Sorenson at the Annual Meeting; needs member news.

Discussion: how to get more member news; reporters from each barn? Page is our gossip-gatherer?

**4. East Bay Area Trails Council (EBATC): Morris** – the last meeting was the largest in a long time – 13 people. There was a presentation about adding Tyler Ranch/Pleasanton Ridge development plan. If so, then Pleasanton Ridge will have total of 62 miles of trails, all except 1 will be fully multi-use. Some of the existing additional bootleg trails built by bicyclists will be closed, others added to the trail system, and some fire roads will be converted to narrow multi-use trails.

Also discussed Garin Park in Hayward Fremont Area: introduced the Master Plan planning process.

**5. Movie Night: Becky Mertens**: getting a lot of interest. Taking email reservations. For next time, need to work on procedure for advance sales. There is a 222 seating capacity. We are allowed to sell concessions outside of the theatre, and a small committee will work on this.

**6. Trail Work: Susan Palo**: Question is when should the TWHA work day take place?

On Friday 5/6/2011 when the California Wilderness Ivan Dickson work day will be working on Arroyo trail? This is an all-day event on a week day. Query will our members come? Or do we want a separate work day on a weekend? Motion passed unanimously to have separate TWHA work day on a Saturday after 5/6; perhaps also do Arroyo if it needs more work.

**7. 2010 East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Hike and Ride Funds distribution: group discussion.** The ride committee made its

recommendations by email to the Board. There was some email discussion immediately afterwards but it was tabled for this live discussion. Ride committee last year was 3 from TWHA, 2 from MHA,

and 2 from San Ramon Valley HA, while the hike committee was 5 from Ridge Trail (staff and board members, plus one from Berkeley Path Wanderers (also a RT member). There were 86 volunteers working at the ride. Of the 86 volunteers, just under 1/3 were TWHAs members.

The recommendation for each organization was discussed separately. Regarding VoCal: Question posed why do we continue to give to them, in that our club's mission is also to preserve and maintain our local trails. We have given to them for the past 3 years. They build new trails. They do not fundraise. They do not have a lot of extra money per Morris – their funding has been cut. Every donation we made to them in the past has been on the condition that it be used for E. Bay trails and/or we designated the project. We have raised grand total of approximately \$140K in the past years. About 10% of this went to TWHAs.

Ivan D and VoCal develop mostly multi-use trails. It was suggested that we publish these stats in the newsletter more often. It was noted that trail building projects are not in the Tilden/Wildcat parks but rather in outlying areas. It was suggested that more money be used for projects within our parks, noting that our members do not often get to these outlying parks. Parking facilities were discussed and acknowledged as costly.

\$26.7k was collected by the ride, and expenses were \$6.2k. Therefore approx \$20K net. About \$9k of the proceeds were collected by the Ridge Trail from hikers and direct donations. In the past those funds have been used by the Ridge Trail Council on multi-use trail projects in the East Bay. \$10K goes to TWHAs account and \$20K to Ridge Trail account.

TWHAs support \$ is given by us to many different organizations/ projects while the RT does not give to other projects.

Morris pointed out that our fundraising garners the club much recognition and goodwill from other clubs. E.g. the MHA arena.

The loss of local barns and horse areas was discussed.

Alison: suggestions for TWHAs projects; BBQ pit in Tilden (may not be allowed); sun shelter at Es Anderson; Discussed implementation of segregated money in a T/W Project fund, whose funds would only be spent on projects benefitting our local parks.

Time line for disbursing funds: VoCal would be disbursed when agreed-to specific project date is set. Others: whenever possible.

Proposal for funds to Grizzly Peak stables: Morris indicated the \$1500 will not save the stable but may be a morale booster for the owner to keep going. If she sells the stable the funds will be paid back. Question about security of the money and likelihood of TWHAs getting reimbursed. Does not think there will be a bankruptcy. Alison; the owner of GP made it clear to her that she was not interested in keeping GP going, so this is at odds.

Motion by Lisa McLaughlin: that the Board vote item by item on the Ride Committee recommendations for disbursement of the Benefit Ride funds. Vote: 7 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Motions: to accept the RC's recommendations for Grizzly Peak stable: 3 yes; 5 no; 2 abstained. Motion not passed.

Alison: Motion to allocate \$1500 of the Benefit Ride funds to a Tilden/Wildcat Projects Fund, in addition to the \$2500 going to TWHA's General Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Alison: Motion to approve the Ride Committee recommendations for funds to VoCal, on the condition that it is used for a multi-use trail project in the East Bay area. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: to approve the RC's recommendation for funds to Ivan Dickson: passed unanimously.

Motion: to approve the RC's recommendation for funds to MHA: passed unanimously.

Motion: that the allocation to TWHA from the benefit ride be \$1500 + \$2500 totaling \$4000. 9 yes; 1 no. Motion passed.

Motion: agenda item for next meeting: the TWHA budget, how we spend our money.

Motion: to approve the RC's recommendation for funds to the Bay Area Ridge Trail: 7 yes; 1 no; 1 abstain. Motion passed.

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**Other business:**

Morris: Ride Committee had a question about whether to invite cyclists on the next ride. They would camp with us, but have their own routes.

Motion: to invite cyclists: 9 yes; 1 abstain.

Motion: to approve the rotation of location of future Board meetings between Kirsten, Lisa and Lila's houses. Passed unanimously.

Member survey: Lisa will refine it. Email suggestions to her.

Greenways conference: in San Ramon 4/11-4/13. Do we want to have a TWHA table? Sponsor a youth to attend? Looking for highschool/college age. Problem is conference is during the school day.

Motion: sponsor a \$125 table by TWHA and two youth sponsorships: 9 yes; 1 abstain.

Meeting adjourned.